

Allowable Subject Matter

This Office Action is in response to applicant's communication of 3/27/2009. Currently amended claims 1-6 and 22-27 are pending and in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in this application have been allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose either singly or in combination the claimed apparatus of a Safety device usable with a vial, with the claimed hub/shoulder/base, collar, with neck and latch member; specifically the latch member extending from the neck or neck extending from a collar and housing (see Decision of 3/27/2009 comments pages 8-9)..

The closest prior art is Olliffe (U.S. Patent 5,135,509) and Mumford (U.S. Patent 6,575,941), but both fail to disclose the claimed combination with the Safety device usable with a vial, with the claimed hub/shoulder/base, collar, with neck and latch member (see comments page 9 of Decision of 3/27/2009).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gray whose telephone number is (571) 272-7180. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phillip Gray/
Examiner, Art Unit 3767
/Kevin C. Sirmons/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767